



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/608,571 | 06/27/2003 | Edwin Bolduan | 2001P12032WOUS | 7324 |

46726 7590 10/09/2007
BSH HOME APPLIANCES CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT
100 BOSCH BOULEVARD
NEW BERN, NC 28562

| |
|----------|
| EXAMINER |
|----------|

LU, JIPING

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

3749

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
|-----------|---------------|

10/09/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/608,571 | BOLDUAN ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Jiping Lu | 3749 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 16-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 16-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Status

1. Claims 1-11 and 16-22 are now in the case and remain rejected. Claims 12-15 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 1-7, 10 and 17, 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tung et al. (U. S. Pat. 5,953,938) in view of Bronander (U. S. Pat. 1,773,167).

Tung et al. shows a clothes washing device with a method and a configuration for cloth dewatering. The clothes (not numbered, col. 1, lines 21-22) are brought in contact with conveyor transporting device 62 and are moved in the same speed on the conveyor. Moisture was removed by squeezing rollers 63, 64. The item of clothing is moved in a vertically upwardly direction at the location where the clothing is leaving device 71 to folding machine 80. However, Tung et al patent does not show the conveyor 62 made by absorbent material and at least two absorbent bodies on both sides of the clothing and a pressure-exerting roller for pressing the clothing against the conveyor of absorbent material. Bronander teaches a cloth treating conveyor 12 of absorbent material (page 1, lines 96-98) and at least two absorbent bodies A, B, C, D on both sides of the cloth 15 same as claimed. It is inherent that the absorbent material of Bronander will absorb moisture from cloth 15. Pressure-exerting rollers 18 are also provided for pressing the

Art Unit: 3749

cloth 15 against the conveyor 12. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute conveyor of absorbent material of Bronander for the conveyor 62 of Tung et al. and to provide the method and apparatus of Tung et al. with two absorbent bodies on both side the of the clothing and pressure-exerting rollers spaced apart from the absorbent conveyor as taught by Bronander in order to absorb moisture from clothes and provide the clothes after treatment with a uniform, finished and polished appearance free from marks, blemishes or disfigurements. The claims would have been obvious because the substitution of one known element for another would have yielded predictable results to one skilled in the art (see KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007)).

4. Claims 8-9 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tung et al. (U. S. Pat. 5,953,938) in view of Bronander (U. S. Pat. 1,773,167) as applied to claim 1 as above, and further in view of Shibuya (JP8-49161).

The clothes dewatering method of Tung et al. as modified by Bronander as above includes all that is recited in claims 8-9 except for gas jet acting transversely to a surface of the item of clothing and forcing the item of clothing into contact with the absorbent body. Shibuya teaches clothes dewatering method with gas jet 38 forcing the item of clothing 40 into contact with the conveyor and acting transversely to a surface of the clothing 40 same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the clothes dewatering method of Tung et al. to include steps of forcing the clothes into contact with conveyor by gas jet and subjecting the clothes to

Art Unit: 3749

action of gas jet acting transversely to a surface of the clothes as taught by Shibuya in order to more efficiently dry the clothes.

5. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tung et al. (U. S. Pat. 5,953,938) in view of Bronander (U. S. Pat. 1,773,167) and Shibuya (JP8-49161).

Tung et al. shows a method for cloth dewatering. The clothes (not numbered, col. 1, lines 21-22) is brought in contact with conveyor 62 and is moved in the same speed on the conveyor. Moisture was removed by squeezing rollers 63, 64. However, Tung et al. does not show the conveyor 62 made by absorbent material and gas jet acting transversely to a surface of the item of clothing. Bronander teaches a cloth treating conveyor 12 of absorbent material (page 1, lines 96-98) and at least two absorbent bodies A, B, C, D on both side of the cloth 15 same as claimed. It is inherent that the absorbent material of Bronander will absorb moisture from cloth 15. Shibuya teaches a clothes dewatering method with gas jet 38 forcing the item of clothing 40 into contact with the conveyor and acting transversely to a surface of the clothing 40 same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute conveyor of absorbent material of Bronander for the conveyor 62 of Tung et al. in order to absorb clothes moisture and provide the clothes after treatment with a uniform, finished and polished appearance free from marks, blemishes or disfigurements and to further modify the clothes dewatering method of Tung et al. to include steps of forcing the clothes into contact with conveyor by gas jet and subjecting the clothes to action of gas jet acting transversely to a surface of the clothes as taught by Shibuya in order to more efficiently dry the clothes.

Art Unit: 3749

6. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tung et al. (U. S. Pat. 5,953,938) in view of Bronander (U. S. Pat. 1,773,167) as applied to claim 19 as above, and further in view of Nelson (U. S. Pat. 5,404,848).

The clothes dewatering configuration of Tung et al. as modified by Bronander as above includes all that is recited in claim 19 except for the absorbent body is made of microfiber material. Nelson teaches a concept of using microfiber material to make absorbent body (col. 3, line 47) same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the clothes dewatering configuration of Tung et al. to include a absorbent body made by microfiber material as taught by Nelson in order to improve the water absorb efficiency.

7. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bronander (U. S. Pat. 1,773,167) in view of Nelson (U. S. Pat. 5,404,848).

Bronander shows a configuration for treating cloth comprising at least one absorbent body 12, a contacting device having a pressure-exerting roller 18 spaced apart from the at least one absorbent body 12 and a transporting device 20, 10-11, 16, 17 for moving cloth 15 which are arranged same claimed. The apparatus of Bronander is capable of removing moisture from a plurality of items of clothing. However, Bronander does not disclose that the absorbent body is made of microfiber material. Nelson teaches a concept of using microfiber material to make absorbent body (col. 3, line 47) same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the clothes treating configuration of Bronander to include a absorbent body of microfiber material as taught by Nelson in order to improve the water absorb efficiency.

Art Unit: 3749

8. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tung et al. (U. S. Pat. 5,953,938) in view of Bronander (U. S. Pat. 1,773,167) as applied to claim 1 as above, and further in view of Henry et al. (U. S. Pat. 6,473,998).

The drying method of Tung et al. as modified by Bronander as above includes all that is recited in claim 18 except for two absorbent bodies disposed opposite one another and bringing the item of clothing into contact with the two absorbent bodies simultaneously between the absorbent bodies disposed on directly opposing sides of the item of clothing. Henry et al. teaches a drying method comprising the steps of disposing two absorbent bodies opposite one another and bringing the item of clothing into contact with the two absorbent bodies simultaneously between the absorbent bodies disposed on directly opposing sides of the item of clothing (see Fig. 1) same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the drying method of Tung et al. to include the steps of disposing two absorbent bodies opposite one another and bringing the item of clothing into contact with the two absorbent bodies simultaneously between the absorbent bodies disposed on directly opposing sides of the item of clothing as taught by Henry et al. in order to pursue an intended use and obtain an predictable drying result.

9. Claims 1-7, 10 and 17-20, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tung et al. (U. S. Pat. 5,953,938) in view of Henry et al. (U. S. Pat. 6,473,998).

Tung et al. shows a method and a configuration for cloth dewatering. The clothes (not numbered, col. 1, lines 21-22) is brought in contact with conveyor 62 and is moved in the same speed on the conveyor. Moisture was removed by squeezing rollers 63, 64. The item of clothing is moved in a vertically upwardly direction at the location where the clothing is leaving device

Art Unit: 3749

71 to folding machine 80. However, Tung et al. does not show the conveyor 62 made by absorbent material and at least two absorbent bodies on both sides of the clothing and a pressure-exerting roller for pressing the clothing against the conveyor of absorbent material. Henry et al. teaches a filaments dewatering conveyor 4 of absorbent material (col. 2, lines 36-37) and at least two absorbent bodies 4, 5 on both side of the filaments 3 same as claimed. It is inherent that the cloth of Henry et al. will absorb moisture from filaments 3. Pressure-exerting rollers 18 are also provided for pressing the filaments 3 against the conveyor 4. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute conveyor 4 of absorbent material of Henry et al. for the conveyor 62 of Tung et al. and to provide the method and configuration of Tung et al. with two absorbent bodies on both side of the clothing and pressure-exerting rollers spaced apart from the absorbent conveyor as taught by Henry et. al. in order to facilitate the drying and therefore improve the drying efficiency.

10. Claims 8-9 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tung et al. (U. S. Pat. 5,953,938) in view of Henry et al. (U. S. Pat. 6,473,998) as applied to claim 1 as above, and further in view of Shibuya (JP8-49161).

The clothes dewatering method of Tung et al. as modified by Henry et al. as above includes all that is recited in claims 8-9 except for gas jet acting transversely to a surface of the item of clothing and forcing the item of clothing into contact with the absorbent body. Shibuya teaches clothes dewatering method with gas jet 38 forcing the item of clothing 40 into contact with the conveyor and acting transversely to a surface of the clothing 40 same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the clothes dewatering method of Trung et al. to include

Art Unit: 3749

steps of forcing the clothes into contact with conveyor by gas jet and subjecting the clothes to action of gas jet acting transversely to a surface of the clothes as taught by Shibuya in order to more efficiently dry the clothes.

11. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tung et al. (U. S. Pat. 5,953,938) in view of Henry et al. (U. S. Pat. 6,473,998) and Shibuya (JP8-49161).

Tung et al. shows a method for cloth dewatering. The clothes (not numbered, col. 1, lines 21-22) is brought in contact with conveyor 62 and is moved in the same speed on the conveyor. Moisture was removed by squeezing rollers 63, 64. However, Tung et al. does not show the conveyor 62 made by absorbent material and gas jet acting transversely to a surface of the item of clothing. Henry et al. teaches filaments dewatering conveyor 4 of absorbent material (col. 2, lines 36-37) and at least two absorbent bodies 4, 5 on both side of the filaments 3 same as claimed. It is inherent that the cloth of Henry et al. will absorb moisture from filaments 3. Shibuya teaches a clothes dewatering method with gas jet 38 forcing the item of clothing 40 into contact with the conveyor and acting transversely to a surface of the clothing 40 same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute conveyor 4 of absorbent material of Henry et al. for the conveyor 62 of Tung et al. in order to facilitate the drying and therefore improve the drying efficiency and to further modify the clothes dewatering method of Tung et al. to include steps of forcing the clothes into contact with conveyor by gas jet and subjecting the clothes to action of gas jet acting transversely to a surface of the clothes as taught by Shibuya in order to more efficiently dry the clothes.

Art Unit: 3749

12. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tung et al. (U. S. Pat. 5,953,938) in view of Henry et al. (U. S. Pat. 6,473,998) as applied to claim 19 as above, and further in view of Nelson (U. S. Pat. 5,404,848).

The clothes dewatering configuration of Tung et al. as modified by Henry et al. as above includes all that is recited in claim 19 except for the absorbent body is made of microfiber material. Nelson teaches a concept of using microfiber material to make absorbent body (col. 3, line 47) same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the clothes dewatering configuration of Tung et al. to include a absorbent body made by microfiber material as taught by Nelson in order to improve the water absorb efficiency.

13. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henry et al. (U. S. Pat. 6,473,998) in view of Nelson (U. S. Pat. 5,404,848).

Henry et al. shows a configuration for removing moisture from filaments 3 comprising at least one absorbent body 4, a contacting device having a pressure-exerting roller 18 spaced apart from the at least one absorbent body 4, 5 and a transporting device 4, 5 for moving filaments 3 which are arranged same claimed. The configuration of Henry et al. is capable of removing moisture from a plurality of items of clothing. However, Henry et al. does not disclose that the absorbent body is made of microfiber material. Nelson teaches a concept of using microfiber material to make absorbent body (col. 3, line 47) same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the clothes dewatering configuration of Henry et al. to include an absorbent body of microfiber material as taught by Nelson in order to improve the water absorb efficiency.

Art Unit: 3749

14. Claims 1-7, 10, 17, 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tung et al. (U. S. Pat. 5,953,938) in view of Eriksson (U. S. Pat. 2,817,227).

Tung et al. shows a method and a configuration for cloth dewatering. The clothes (not numbered, col. 1, lines 21-22) is brought in contact with conveyor 62 and is moved in the same speed on the conveyor. Moisture was removed by squeezing rollers 63, 64. The item of clothing is moved in a vertically upwardly direction at the location where the clothing is leaving device 71 to folding machine 80. However, Tung et al. does not show the conveyor 62 made by absorbent material and at least two absorbent bodies on both sides of the clothing. Eriksson teaches a filaments dewatering conveyor 2' of absorbent material for absorbing water (col. 2, lines 54-60) and at least two absorbent bodies 1, 2' on both side of the filaments F same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute conveyor of absorbent material of Eriksson for the conveyor 62 of Tung et al. and to provide the method and apparatus of Tung et al. with two absorbent bodies on both side the of the clothing as taught by Eriksson in order to facilitate the drying and therefore improve the drying efficiency.

15. Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tung et al. (U. S. Pat. 5,953,938) in view of Eriksson (U. S. Pat. 2,817,227) as applied to claim 1 as above, and further in view of Shibuya (JP8-49161).

The clothes dewatering method of Tung et al. as modified by Eriksson as above includes all that is recited in claims 8-9 except for gas jet acting transversely to a surface of the item of clothing and forcing the item of clothing into contact with the absorbent body. Shibuya teaches clothes dewatering method with gas jet 38 forcing the item of clothing 40 into contact with the

Art Unit: 3749

conveyor and acting transversely to a surface of the clothing 40 same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the clothes dewatering method of Trung et al. to include steps of forcing the clothes into contact with conveyor by gas jet and subjecting the clothes to action of gas jet acting transversely to a surface of the clothes as taught by Shibuya in order to more efficiently dry the clothes.

16. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tung et al. (U. S. Pat. 5,953,938) in view of Eriksson (U. S. Pat. 2,817,227) and Shibuya (JP8-49161).

Tung et al. shows a method for cloth dewatering. The clothes (not numbered, col. 1, lines 21-22) is brought in contact with conveyor 62 and is moved in the same speed on the conveyor. Moisture was removed by squeezing rollers 63, 64. However, Tung et al. does not show the conveyor 62 made by absorbent material and gas jet acting transversely to a surface of the item of clothing. Eriksson teaches a filaments dewatering conveyor 2' of absorbent material for absorbing water (col. 2, lines 54-60) and at least two absorbent bodies 1, 2' on both side of the filaments F same as claimed. Shibuya teaches a clothes dewatering method with gas jet 38 forcing the item of clothing 40 into contact with the conveyor and acting transversely to a surface of the clothing 40 same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute conveyor 4 of Eriksson for the conveyor 62 of Tung et al. in order to facilitate the drying and therefore improve the drying efficiency and to further modify the clothes dewatering method of Trung et al. to include steps of forcing the clothes into contact with conveyor by gas jet and subjecting the

Art Unit: 3749.

clothes to action of gas jet acting transversely to a surface of the clothes as taught by Shibuya in order to more efficiently dry the clothes.

17. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tung et al. (U. S. Pat. 5,953,938) in view of Eriksson (U. S. Pat. 2,817,227) and Bronander (U. S. Pat. 1,773,167) or Henry et al. (U. S. Pat. 6,473,998).

Tung et al. shows a configuration for cloth dewatering. The clothes (not numbered, col. 1, lines 21-22) is brought in contact with conveyor 62 and is moved in the same speed on the conveyor. Moisture was removed by squeezing rollers 63, 64. However, Tung et al. does not show the conveyor 62 made by absorbent material and a pressure-exerting roller for pressing the clothing against the conveyor of absorbent material. Eriksson teaches a filaments dewatering conveyor 2' of absorbent material for absorbing water (col. 2, lines 54-60) same as claimed. Bronander or Henry et al. teach a concept of using a pressure-exerting roller 18 for pressing the clothing against the conveyor of absorbent material same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute conveyor of absorbent material of Eriksson for the conveyor 62 of Tung et al. and to provide the configuration of Tung et al. with pressure-exerting roller as taught by Bronander or Henry et al. in order to improve the drying efficiency.

18. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tung et al. (U. S. Pat. 5,953,938) in view of Eriksson (U. S. Pat. 2,817,227) and Bronander (U. S. Pat. 1,773,167) or Henry et al. (U. S. Pat. 6,473,998) as applied to claim 19 as above, and further in view of Nelson (U. S. Pat. 5,404,848).

Art Unit: 3749

The clothes dewatering configuration of Tung et al. as modified by Eriksson and Bronander or Henry et al. as above includes all that is recited in claim 19 except for the absorbent body is made of microfiber material. Nelson teaches a concept of using microfiber material to make absorbent body (col. 3, line 47) same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the clothes dewatering configuration of Trung et al. to include a absorbent body made by microfiber material as taught by Nelson in order to improve the water absorb efficiency.

19. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eriksson (U. S. Pat. 2,817,227) in view of Nelson (U. S. Pat. 5,404,848) and Bronander (U. S. Pat. 1,773,167) or Henry et al. (U. S. Pat. 6,473,998).

Eriksson shows a configuration for removing moisture from filaments F comprising at least one absorbent body 2' for absorb small quantity of water (col. 2, lines 54-60), and a transporting device 1-9 for moving filaments F which are arranged same claimed. The configuration of Eriksson is capable of removing moisture from a plurality of items of clothing. However, Eriksson does not disclose that the absorbent body is made of microfiber material and a pressure-exerting roller for pressing the clothing against the conveyor of absorbent material. Nelson teaches a concept of using microfiber material to make absorbent body (col. 3, line 47) same as claimed. Bronander or Henry et al. teach a concept of using a pressure-exerting roller 18 for pressing the clothing against the conveyor of absorbent material same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the clothes dewatering configuration of Eriksson to include an absorbent body of microfiber material as taught by Nelson and to provide the configuration of

Art Unit: 3749

Eriksson with pressure-exerting roller as taught by Bronander or Henry et al. in order to improve the drying efficiency.

Response to Arguments

20. Applicant's arguments filed on Jul. 3, 2007 with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. First, on pages 8 -9 of the Remarks, the applicant argues that the prior art references do not teach such combination. The examiner disagrees. Broad claims fail to define over the prior art references. For example, broad claim 1 merely calls for an item of clothing moved in contact (wipe off wetness) and subsequent separation with an absorbing material at a same speed. This is clearly taught by the prior art patents to Tung and Bronander as stated in the above rejection. The applicant is requested to point out from the broad claims exactly which limitations, if any, that the prior art references do not teach or show. The broad claims presented would have been obvious because the substitution of one known element for another would have yielded predictable results to one skilled in the art (see KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007)). Second, on page 10 of the Remarks, regarding claim 3, the applicant argues that the prior art references do not teach "removing moisture from the absorbing body following contact with the items of clothing". The examiner disagrees because once the wet clothing items made contact with an absorbent material, the moisture will automatically be removed to certain degree. This is a common sense that the nature of absorbent material to remove wetness from an item. It is daily routine that one uses sponge to wet off moisture table surface everyday in the kitchens. Third, on pages 10-11 of the Remarks, regarding claim 11, the applicant also argues that Nelson patent is from a non-

Art Unit: 3749

analogous art. The examiner disagrees because Nelson teaches a concept of using microfiber material to make absorbent body (col. 3, line 47) same as claimed. The Nelson patent and the applicant's uses are the same and solving the same problem, removing moisture. Therefore, it can not be said Nelson patent is non-analogous art. It is the examiner's position that it would have been obvious to further modify the clothes dewatering configuration of Tung et al. to include a absorbent body made by microfiber material as taught by Nelson in order to improve the water absorb efficiency because all the claimed elements were known in the prior art and combined as claimed with no changes in their respective functions and such combination would have yielded predictable results to one skilled in the art (see KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007)). Finally, with regard to the newly added claim 19, this claim is also not allowable for the reasons set forth in above rejection.

Conclusion

21. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

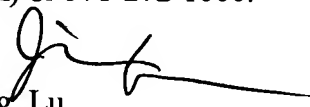
Art Unit: 3749

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

22. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jiping Lu whose telephone number is 571 272 4878. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, STEVEN B. MCALLISTER can be reached on 571 272-6785. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Jiping Lu
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3749

J. L.